

Somerset C.D. *W. King*


Combined Districts of
**BATHAVON, KEYNSHAM,
FROME (Urban and Rural)**

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1956



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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
8 CLEVELAND PLACE EAST,
BATH.

*To the Chairmen and Members of the
Bathavon, Keynsham, Frome Urban and Frome
Rural Councils.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Measured in terms of the notifiable diseases the health of the area during 1956 was very satisfactory indeed. Most of the common infections showed a considerable decline on the previous year's figures. Scarlet fever, measles, whooping cough, pneumonia and tuberculosis all showed reduced figures while poliomyelitis and food poisoning were almost non-existent ; notification of one case only of each disease being recorded for the year. The figures for the last two diseases were particularly pleasing and the fact that for the second year in succession only one case of food poisoning has been notified is no doubt due in large measure to the patient and unspectacular work of the public health inspectors in the supervision of the food and in the education of the food handler throughout the year.

The birth rate and the infantile mortality rate at 16.86 and 18.54 respectively represent the average for these rates over the previous five years but the death rate at 9.45 is one of the lowest recorded for the area.

A notable piece of legislation to make its appearance on the statute book during the year was the Clean Air Act of 1956. In a community such as this which is largely rural it is difficult to make any attempt to assess the amount of ill-health caused by smoke. There must be little doubt, however, that the responsibility for providing clean air for people to breathe should fall on the rural area as well as on the purely industrial area even though the problems to be faced are on such a vastly reduced scale.

My thanks are again due to my constituent authorities and the members of their staffs who never fail to give me their full co-operation and support.

Yours faithfully,

R. H. G. H. DENHAM.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

SCARLET FEVER

Cases of scarlet fever were reduced from 69 to 35. The urban areas again had by far the greater number of cases, 27 in the urban districts compared with 8 in the rural. The fact that only one case was sent to hospital is a sufficient commentary on the severity of the disease.

MEASLES

One hundred and eight cases of measles were notified compared with 646 the previous year.

WHOOPING COUGH

Whooping cough continued its downward trend, 30 cases only being notified compared with 136 last year. This is now the fifth year that reduction in the numbers has occurred, the figures for these years being as follows :—

1952—182

1955—136

1953—173

1956—30

1954—137

PNEUMONIA

Thirty-one cases of pneumonia were notified compared with 35 the previous year. Two deaths occurred as last year, both of the acute influenzal type. Two cases were admitted to hospital compared with three last year.

DIPHTHERIA

The area continued to remain free from diphtheria. Immunisation against the disease was actively pursued at the schools and welfare clinics throughout the year.

ERYSIPELAS

Four cases of erysipelas were notified compared with one last year.

TUBERCULOSIS

A spectacular fall took place in the notifications of cases of tuberculosis both pulmonary and non-pulmonary. Thirty-five cases were notified (33 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary) compared with 74 cases (65 pulmonary and 9 non-pulmonary) the previous year. These figures are particularly gratifying because of the marked reduction notwithstanding the fact that one part of the area has received a number of cases transferred from another authority. On investigation it was found that these were all inactive cases.

During the year the County Health Department made B.C.G. vaccination available to the children of school leaving age and in future this will be a routine procedure at the senior schools in the area.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

Units of this service of the South-West Regional Hospital Board visited the area during the year as follows :—

27th August, 1956 : Messrs. Butler & Tanner, Frome.

28th August, 1956 : The Health Centre, Frome.

5th November, 1956 :

20th December, 1956 : Messrs. Tate & Lyle, Keynsham.

Attendances were		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Messrs. Butler & Tanner ...		230	120	350
Health Centre, Frome ...		789	564	1353
“ “ “ ...	* 48		114	162

*These numbers are made up as follows :—

Scholars	2	4	
Schools staff	46	110	
Messrs. Tate & Lyle ...	60	63	123

FOOD POISONING

For the second year in succession only one notification of food-poisoning was received during the year. The patient was a little girl of nine whose symptoms, fortunately, were mild and lasted only two or three days. A thorough investigation was carried out but the source of the infection was not discovered.

POLIOMYELITIS

A number of children were immunised against poliomyelitis during the year under the Ministry scheme. These were much less than anticipated as the amount of vaccine released by the Ministry was limited to an even greater extent than expected owing to circumstances associated with its production. Nothing could be deducted statistically from these small numbers but what we may hope was a happy augury for the future of the scheme throughout the area was the fact that only one case of poliomyelitis was notified for the year compared with 12 for the previous year.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

One case of puerperal pyrexia was notified compared with none for last year.

DYSENTERY

Twenty-one cases of Sonne dysentery were notified during the year. Of these, 12 attended a school outside the area and no doubt were exposed to the infection there. All these cases received careful supervision at home and in no instance was there any evidence of spread of the disease beyond the patient's own family.

DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

ALL AREAS

		Under 1 week	1—4 weeks	1—6 months	6—12 months	Total
Streptococcal septicaemia	...	—	1	—	—	1
Asphyxia	... ..	—	—	—	1	1
Pneumonia	... ..	1	—	3	—	4
Atelectasis	... ..	5	—	—	—	5
T.B. meningitis	...	—	—	—	1	1
Congenital hydrocephalus	... ..	1	—	—	—	1
Pyelitis	... ..	—	1	—	—	1
Prematurity	... ..	2	—	—	—	2
Spina bifida	... ..	—	—	1	—	1
Congenital heart disease	... ..	—	—	2	—	2
		9	2	6	2	19

STATISTICAL TABLE

The figures in this Table represent the birth rates, death rates and infantile mortality rates for the combined districts for the six years period, 1951—1956 with the comparative figures for England and Wales.

			Birth rate	Death rate	Infantile Mortality rate
Combined districts	1951	...	16.55	11.29	13.66
England and Wales	1951	...	15.5	12.5	29.6
Combined districts	1952	...	16.05	9.52	20.74
England and Wales	1952	...	15.3	11.3	27.6
Combined districts	1953	...	15.91	10.05	18.84
England and Wales	1953	...	15.5	11.4	26.8
Combined districts	1954	...	17.39	10.91	24.91
England and Wales	1954	...	15.2	11.3	25.5
Combined districts	1955	...	16.68	10.79	15.33
England and Wales	1955	...	15.0	11.7	24.9
Combined districts	1956	...	16.83	9.45	18.54
England and Wales	1956	...	15.7	11.7	23.8

The birth rate at 16.83 was almost the same as last year's figure of 16.68. The death rate was again reduced. This time by 1.34 to a rate of 9.45 which represents one of the lowest ever recorded for the area.

The infantile mortality rate rose from 15.33 last year to 18.54 this year. Even so this figure is about the average for the previous five years.

All these figures compare very favourably with those of the country as a whole.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

One case was dealt with under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948. This was done at the request of the man's own doctor who found it impossible to provide the necessary medical care and attention for his patient in his own home.

BATHAVON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

POPULATION ESTIMATED, MID-YEAR, 1956	....	....	19,430
AREA OF THE DISTRICT	....	....	39,996 acres
NUMBER OF HOUSES INHABITED ACCORDING TO RATE BOOKS, 1956	....	....	6,112
AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSE	....	....	3.17
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE, 1956/57	....		£690
RATEABLE VALUE, APRIL, 1956	....	....	£170,827

Chairman of the Council R. O. J. WHITEMORE, ESQ., J.P.

Chairman of the Health and Highway Committee G. H. HYDER, ESQ.

Senior Public Health Inspector C. C. AXFORD, Cert. S.I.B.,
M.A.P.H.I., I.M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector H. C. L. MORRIS, Cert. S.I.B.,
M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Health Department Clerk MISS TENNANT

Council Offices :

30 Westgate Buildings, Bath

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8 Cleveland Place East, Bath

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EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The number of live births registered, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 333.

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	168	152	320
Illegitimate	....	....	....	5	8	13
				<hr/> 173	<hr/> 160	<hr/> 333

STILL BIRTHS

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	6	1	7
Illegitimate	....	....	....	2	—	2
				<hr/> 8	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 9

Birth Rate, per 1000 estimated resident population, mid 1956	....	....	....	....	....	17·99
Still births, rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	....					28·86
Death Rate, per 1000 estimated average population	....					10·54

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1000 live births	....	....	....	19·13
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	....			17·06
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births				70

DEATHS

The number of deaths, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 225, 114 males and 111 females. The following Table indicates the cause of death :—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory system	2	1	3
Tuberculosis, other	1	1	2
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	5	5
" " lung, bronchus	4	1	5
" " breast	—	4	4
" " uterus	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	4	15
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
Diabetes	2	2	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	19	27
Coronary disease, angina	21	22	43
Hypertension with heart disease	2	1	3
Other heart disease	18	19	37
Other circulatory disease	5	7	12
Influenza	2	2	4
Pneumonia	3	3	6
Bronchitis	4	2	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	5	—	5
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	2	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	—	4
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	2	—	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	7	16
Motor vehicle accidents	3	—	3
All other accidents	3	6	9
Suicide	2	—	2
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
	114	111	225

Deaths under one year of age

There were 7 deaths of infants under one year of age, 6 male and 1 female, divided as follows :—

Under 1 week	....	2	1—4 weeks	....	2
1—6 months	....	1	6—12 months	....	2

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Measles	51	—	—
Scarlet Fever	3	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Membranous croup	—	—	—
Enteric or Paratyphoid fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—
Dysentery	14	—	—
Whooping cough	13	—	—
Acute primary pneumonia	10	—	—
Acute influenzal pneumonia	3	—	2
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—
Typhus	—	—	—
Typhoid fever	—	—	—
Small Pox	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—
Food poisoning	1	—	—
	99	—	2

TUBERCULOSIS

Nine cases of pulmonary and 1 case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. There were 3 deaths from pulmonary and 2 deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-pulmonary</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Cases on Register, 1.1.56 ...	62	39	7	12	69	51
New cases, 1956 ...	7	2	1	—	8	2
Cases removed 1956 ...	69	41	8	12	77	53
	7	13	2	3	9	16
On Register, 31.12.56 ...	62	28	6	9	68	37

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, 1956

WATER SUPPLIES

Bathampton

This supply was again satisfactory both with regard to sufficiency and quality and was maintained without interruption during the year. At the time of writing negotiations have almost been completed for the taking over of this entire supply by the Bath Corporation.

Bathford

During the early part of the summer great difficulty was experienced in providing an adequate supply and the Royal Engineers' works in Wiltshire were unable to make up completely the deficiency of the local springs. Towards the end of the summer the village mains were linked with Bath Corporation mains and an ample supply was then available. As for Bathampton, negotiations are being completed for the supplying of the whole village by the Bath Corporation.

Combe Hay

This supply which serves the parishes of Wellow, Dunkerton, Camerton, Combe Hay, Shoscombe, Peasedown, Priston, has continued to be satisfactory and an uninterrupted supply was maintained during the year. The water was at all times pure. Because of the development of the area served and the laying of mains and modernisation of properties and agricultural demands, 85 per cent. of the capacity of the works is now being used. Because of this, tentative discussions have taken place with regard to the possibility of obtaining a supplementary supply from Bath Corporation.

During the year an extension of the supply was taken to the eastern part of the hamlet of Tunley.

Monkton Combe

Owing to the demands of Monkton Combe School which is developing rather rapidly and which, by an agreement, is entitled to a free supply, the water supply to this village is becoming inadequate and negotiations are proceeding with a view to Bath Corporation supplying that part which they do not already cover. The water has been satisfactory as regards purity.

Upper Swainswick

The supply to this hamlet was insufficient to maintain an uninterrupted supply during the summer and water had to be hauled to make up part of the deficiency. Negotiations have almost been completed with Bath Corporation for the laying of new mains in the hamlet and supplying water to the whole area therefrom.

Swineford

This hamlet, in the parish of Northstoke, is now practically all served from the main recently laid by the West Gloucester Water Company. The local supply has been adequate to serve the remaining properties.

Hinton Charterhouse

The supply was adequate both as regards quantity and quality during the year. The water was supplied in bulk by Bath Corporation with whom negotiations are proceeding for the supply to the whole village.

Marksbury

This supply is obtained in bulk from the Clutton R.D.C. and an augmented supply obtained by them from Bristol Waterworks Company has enabled a pure and uninterrupted supply to be maintained throughout the year.

SUPPLIES FROM STATUTORY AUTHORITIES

The statutory undertakers operating within the district are the West Gloucester Water Company and the Bath Corporation. Regular samples have shown the water to be consistently pure. Sufficient water has been available at all times.

During the year a full supply by the West Gloucester Water Company to the hamlet of Burnett and the villages of Compton Dando, Newton St. Loe and a supplementary supply to Corston was completed.

Private Supplies

The estate supplies at Claverton and Kelston remained adequate and pure throughout the year.

Results of Samples taken

<i>Chlorinated Water</i>				<i>Raw Water</i>			
<i>Bacteriological</i>		<i>Chemical</i>		<i>Bacteriological</i>		<i>Chemical</i>	
<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>	<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>	<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>	<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>
73	3	7	—	10	3	—	—

Supplies from Piped Supplies

Number of parishes supplied from public mains	...	...	22
„ „ parishes supplied from public source	...	...	2
„ „ houses having water direct to them	...	...	6,050
„ „ houses served by standpipes	...	...	228
„ „ cases in which piped supplies were substituted for :—			
Well water	...	...	5
Private sources	...	...	26

PUBLIC CLEANSING

No change was made with regard to the periods and systems of collection during the year. The tips were satisfactorily maintained and no complaints were received.

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The parishes of Bathampton, Bathford, Batheaston, Claverton, Monkton Combe, Swainswick (part), Whitchurch, Camerton (part) are served with public sewers which have given complete satisfaction throughout the year.

The sewers and disposal works serving Southstoke and Midford were completed and are working satisfactorily.

The sewers and construction of disposal works in the village of Priston and the sewers for part of Peasedown St. John together with the village of Shoscombe were also completed.

Although the scheme for completing the sewerage of the northern area of Peasedown has been approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, permission to proceed with this very necessary work has not yet been received.

The sewage disposal works throughout the district have been well maintained and are working satisfactorily with the exception of the one serving the village of Wellow. This plant is completely worn out. It is impossible to maintain it satisfactorily and it needs replacing at an early date. This may also involve the relaying of sewers as at present these carry both soil and surface water from highways which makes treatment difficult.

HOUSING

Number of permanent dwellings in the district	...	...	6,419
„ „ permanent dwellings owned by the authority			1,133
„ „ temporary housing units occupied	...	...	7

Action taken during the year

Number of houses in clearance areas for which clearance orders have been confirmed	...	...	...	...	23
Number of houses demolished under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	8
Number of houses closed as a result of an undertaking given by owners or following the issue of closing orders					10
Number of temporary dwellings (huts, etc.) demolished	...				32
Number of houses made fit during the year	...	...			24

	Houses erected during the year		Houses in course of erection at end of the year		Houses gained from conversion of large properties
	For slum clearance	For other purposes	For slum clearance	For other purposes	
By local authority	41	62	Nil	4	Nil
By private enterprise	Nil	45	Nil	56	6

Number of houses listed as unfit for human habitation for
 action under Section 11 or by clearance areas ... 123
 Number of applications for council houses at end of year ... 318
 Up to the time of writing 57 per cent. of the unfit houses included
 in the first five-year slum clearance programme have been dealt with.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS MADE UNDER THE HOUSING ACT, 1949—1954

Applications received	...	...	...	...	35
Applications approved	...	...	...	...	30
Average cost per dwelling approved	...	...	...	...	£240 9s. 7d.
Average rent fixed	...	...	...	...	£84
Amount of grant payable by local authority	...	...	...	...	£1,863 10s.

MILK

Number of registered distributors of designated milks	...	...	...	...	32
„ „ registered dairy premises	...	...	...	...	23
„ „ supplementary licences issued to distributors whose dairy is outside the district	...	...	...	...	9

Sampling

<i>Designation of milk</i>	<i>Samples taken</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>
Tuberculin tested	22	22
Pasteurised	22	22
Sterilised... ..	8	8

ICE-CREAM

Number of premises registered for :—

Manufacture and retail	...	...	...	...	Nil
Manufacture only	...	...	...	...	Nil
Retail only	...	...	...	...	35

The whole of the ice-cream sold in the district is made by well-known manufacturers who supply modern containers for storage at the retailers. No action was necessary at any of the retailers' premises and samples taken were satisfactory.

MEAT AND FOODS

There are no slaughter houses or bacon factories in use at the present time. During visits to the premises, shops, canteens and cafes the following foods were surrendered as unfit for human consumption including tinned foods which were damaged.

67 lb. of beef ;	11 tins of meat products ;
21 „ pork ;	36 „ milk (damaged) ;
83 „ meat products ;	17 „ fish (damaged) ;
	15 „ fruit.

There are 151 food premises where occupiers are responsible for the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. A prompt start was made in dealing with these regulations. The occupiers of the various food premises were interviewed and leaflets setting out the provisions were given to each. The majority were found to be well informed through their trade journals and anxious to co-operate. At the time of writing a detailed inspection is being carried out and where necessary informal notices are being served. It is apparent that very few cases requiring formal action will be met with.

RODENT CONTROL

During the year the work of rat and mouse destruction and prevention has involved the inspection and treatment of premises as follows :—

<i>Type of premises</i>	<i>No. of inspections</i>	<i>No. of treatments</i>
Private houses	830	163
Business premises	28	9
Agricultural premises	52	—
Public sewers	2	2
Refuse tips and housing estates sewage plants	40	13

CAMPING SITES

Number of permanent caravan sites	6
„ „ individually sited caravans	49

In conjunction with the Planning Authority the licences in respect of the majority of the 41 individually licensed caravans at Whitchurch are being withdrawn.

A number of applications to station individual caravans have, with the same co-operation, been refused on amenity grounds.

INDUSTRIES

The main industries of the district are :—

Agriculture	Lime kilns
Plasticine and wax making	Fullers earth mining
Paper making	Rubber industry
Rag flock manufacturers	Joinery works

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health :—

	<i>No. on Register</i>	<i>Inspec- tions</i>	<i>Notices served</i>
1. Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Factories Act are enforced	30	31	Nil
2. Factories not included above in which Sec. 7 is enforced ...	10	12	3

It has not been necessary to take action in respect of any of the 38 outworkers' premises.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The number of water closets is	6,150 (approx.)
„ „ „ pail „ „	1,200
„ „ „ earth „ „	53
„ „ „ chemical „ „	158
Number of conversions to water carriage system	51

NUISANCES

Enquiries and visits in connection with various nuisances	... 67
Nuisances remedied following formal and informal action	... 54

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Visits and disinfections following cases of infectious disease	... 36
Disinfestations carried out... ..	... 13

GENERAL

There is one manufacturer of rag flock licensed under the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951. Twenty-two samples of flock and coir fibre from this mill were all reported as being above the required standard.

There are seven dealers in old metals registered under Sec. 86 of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1907.

There is one licensed knacker's yard which also holds a licence to slaughter horses. It has given every satisfaction throughout the year.

There are no public swimming pools or common lodging houses and no premises registered under the Pet Animals Act, 1951.

KEYNSHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

POPULATION ESTIMATED MID YEAR, 1956	....	....	11,320
AREA OF THE DISTRICT	....	....	4,170 acres
NUMBER OF HOUSES INHABITED ACCORDING TO RATE BOOKS	....	....	3,615
AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSE	....	....	3.10
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	....	....	£671
RATEABLE VALUE	....	....	£170,201

Chairman of the Council ... R. A. HARVEY, ESQ., J.P.

Chairman of the Health Committee L. F. ELLIS, ESQ.

Public Health Inspector ... D. F. G. LOCKYEAR, M.R.S.H.,
M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices : Keynsham.

Telephone : KEYNSHAM 2345 /8.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The number of live births registered, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 208.

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	101	103	204
Illegitimate	....	....	....	1	3	4
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				102	106	208
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

STILL BIRTHS

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	1	1	2
Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	—	—
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				1	1	2
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth Rate, per 1000 estimated resident population, mid 1956	....	....	....	....	....	....	17.08
Still births, rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	....						8.85
Death Rate, per 1000 estimated average population	....						8.91

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1000 live births	....	....	....	8.51
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	....			8.67
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births				Nil

DEATHS

The number of deaths, adjusted for inward and outward transfers total, 172. 80 male and 92 female. The following table indicates the cause of death :—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	—	—
" " lung, bronchus	1	—	1
" " breast	—	3	3
" " uterus	—	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	13	4	17
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1	1
Diabetes	1	2	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	23	37
Coronary disease, angina	25	23	48
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
Other heart disease	9	10	19
Other circulatory disease	3	3	6
Influenza	1	—	1
Pneumonia	—	2	2
Bronchitis	1	2	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	10	15
Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1
All other accidents	3	3	6
Suicide	—	1	1
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
	80	92	172

Deaths under One year of age

There were 3 deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, 1 male and 2 female, divided as follows :—

Under 1 week	.... 2	1—4 weeks —
1—6 months	.... 1	6—12 months —

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Measles	53	—	—
Scarlet fever	13	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Membranous croup	—	—	—
Enteric or paratyphoid fever	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—
Dysentery	6	3	—
Whooping cough	5	—	—
Acute primary pneumonia	3	1	—
Acute influenzal pneumonia	1	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—
Typhus	—	—	—
Typhoid fever	—	—	—
Small Pox	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—
Food poisoning	—	—	—
	81	5	—

TUBERCULOSIS

Eighteen cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. There were no deaths.

			<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-pulmonary</i>	<i>Total</i>
			<i>M. F.</i>	<i>M. F.</i>	<i>M. F.</i>
On register, 1.1.56	....	....	40 26	— 2	40 28
New cases, 1956	....	....	12 6	— —	12 6
			52 32	— 2	52 34
Cases removed	....	....	3 5	— —	3 5
On register, 31.12.56	....	....	49 27	— 2	49 29

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

KEYNSHAM DAY NURSERY

The Hazelwood Day Nursery continues to perform a useful function in Keynsham and the attendance figures were well maintained during the year. A visit to the Nursery is always a pleasant experience. The number of children on the register was 26, of which 21 were in age groups 2–5 years and 5 under two years. The average daily attendance was 20.

KEYNSHAM WELFARE CENTRE

Increased attendance figures for the year were reported from the Keynsham Welfare Centre. The Centre was open each week except during August, when extra cleaning was undertaken, and during which time provision was made for the sale of welfare foods, etc. In her report on the year's working the secretary points out that the committee responsible for the administration of the Centre are very anxious that the Somerset County Council as the local health authority should provide new central clinic premises for the town as soon as possible. They wished to emphasise the rapid rate of growth of the town and the difficulties under which the present clinics work and also the shortage of halls in Keynsham. Whatever may be started before the central clinic premises are built must not prejudice or hinder the coming into being of a central clinic as early as possible. They would not consider a second Centre in Keynsham with full

medical facilities that would operate in premises not designed for the purpose. The Committee agreed to the opening of a weighing centre in the Park Road Estate to meet at the Evangelical Church Hall and that the Keynsham Child Welfare Centre Committee should be responsible for its accommodation.

The attendance figures for the year were as follows :—

Total on the books at the beginning of the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	536
Total on the books at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	611
Attendances :							
January	...	...	...	...	...	...	185
February	...	...	...	...	...	...	163
March	...	...	...	...	...	...	185
April	...	...	...	...	...	...	162
May ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	202
June	...	...	...	...	...	...	173
July ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	168
August	...	...	...	...	...	...	Closed
September	...	...	...	...	...	...	148
October	...	...	...	...	...	...	166
November	...	...	...	...	...	...	181
December	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
							1,837
Attendances for 1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,601

SALTFORD WELFARE CENTRE

Total on books at the beginning of the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
Total on books at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	182
Attendances :—							
January	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
February	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
March	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
April ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90
May ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	88
June	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
July ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
August	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
September	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
October	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
November	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
December	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
							1,038
Attendances for 1955 (September–December)	...	...	...	...	...	...	269

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR—1956

PUBLIC CLEANSING

A weekly collection of refuse from domestic and business premises in the district has been maintained throughout the year. Approximately 15 per cent. of the work is carried out by a Contractor, the remainder by direct labour. While this system has limitations it is the most economical under present conditions and no serious difficulties have been encountered.

Disposal of refuse has continued at the one controlled tip at Unity Road quite satisfactorily.

HOUSING

Although the number of new Council houses completed during the year rose to the record figure of 222, the overall total of completions dropped, due to a sharp fall in the number built by private enterprise. The number under construction at the end of the year was also much less than in 1955.

Satisfactory progress has been made towards the clearance of insanitary property. The preliminary procedure was completed in respect of all the main Clearance Areas and individual unfit houses. Informal negotiation for repairs etc. was proceeding in a number of other cases where clearance was not considered justifiable.

HOUSING STATISTICS

(1)	Total number of dwelling houses in district	....	....	3,809
(2)	Total number of dwelling houses owned by Council	....	....	1,167
(3)	New houses completed during the year :—			
	(a) By Local Authority	....	....	222
	(b) By Private Enterprise	....	....	167
(4)	New houses under construction at 31st December, 1956 :—			
	(a) By Local Authority	....	....	159
	(b) By Private Enterprise	....	....	131
(5)	Total number of applicants for Council Houses as at 31st December, 1956	....	....	196
(6)	Total number of post-war houses completed to 31st December, 1956 :—			
	(a) By Local Authority	....	....	1,059
	(b) By Private Enterprise	....	....	789
(7)	Summary of action under Housing Act, 1936 :—			
	(a) Houses inspected....	....	....	114
	(b) Total number of visits	....	....	156
	(c) Informal notices issued	....	....	22
	(d) Informal notices complied with	....	....	19
	(e) Statutory notices issued	....	....	—
	(f) Statutory notices complied with	....	....	—

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS

Total number of inspections	....	....	....	....	....	307
Informal notices issued	....	....	....	....	....	18
Informal notices complied with	....	....	....	....	....	15
Infectious disease	{	Enquiries	....	....	....	38
		Disinfections	....	....	....	12
Enquiries into insect infestation	....	....	....	....	....	7
Enquiries into various complaints of nuisance	....	....	....	....	....	29
Shops inspections	....	....	....	....	....	40
Statutory notices issued	....	....	....	....	....	—
Statutory notices complied with	....	....	....	....	....	—

While there is never room for complacency in Public Health work as higher standards must always be the aim, at the same time improvements in individual and collective health and living conditions have been effected during the year. The fact that this has been achieved without recourse to formal or punitive action is a tribute to the co-operation received from all sections of the community and gives ground for some satisfaction.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a)	Total number of food premises in area	...	...	...	66
	These comprise	(i)	Retail butchers	...	8
		(ii)	Other retail food shops	...	35
		(iii)	Cafes and canteens (including schools)	...	14
		(iv)	Bakehouses	...	4
		(v)	Chocolate manufacture	...	1
		(vi)	Ice-cream manufacture	...	1
		(vii)	Pickle manufacture	...	1
		(viii)	Wholesale warehouse	...	1
		(ix)	Sugar packing	...	1
(b)	Total number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955	...	...	...	38
	These comprise	(i)	Ice-cream manufacture	...	1
		(ii)	Ice-cream manufacture and sale	...	1
		(iii)	Ice-cream storage and sale	...	25
		(iv)	Sausage manufacture	...	5
		(v)	Preserved food manufacture	...	6

There are no licensed slaughterhouses or knackers' yards within the Urban District.

(c)	Total inspections at all types of food premises	...	...	128
	Food surrendered as unfit for human consumption :—			
	Imported beef	...	...	26 lb.
	Tinned fruit and vegetables	...	...	208 tins
	Tinned meat	...	...	231 „
	Tinned milk	...	...	17 „
	Tinned fish	...	...	14 „
	Mincemeat (jars)	...	...	63 lb.

All condemned food was removed for disposal at the refuse tip.

(d) Milk Supply

All milk sold in the area is designated milk and has been maintained at a uniformly satisfactory standard.

Forty-three samples (12 Tuberculin Tested, 21 Pasteurised and 10 Sterilised) have been submitted for bacteriological examination of which three T.T. samples and one Pasteurised sample failed to conform to the prescribed standard.

(1)	Number of registered dairy premises	....	....	....	2
(2)	Number of registered distributors	....	....	....	8
(3)	Number of producer/retailers in (2)	....	....	....	Nil
(4)	Number of licensed pasteurising plants....	....	....	....	Nil
(5)	Number of dealers' licences to retail pasteurised milk				Nil
(6)	Number of dealers' licences to retail T.T. milk			....	2
(7)	Number of supplementary licences to retail pasteurised milk	....	....	....	4
(8)	Number of supplementary licences to retail T.T. milk				Nil
(9)	Number of supplementary licences to retail sterilised milk	....	....	....	2
(10)	Number of inspections at dairies, etc.	....	....	....	9

(e) Bakehouses

The bakehouses have generally been found to be satisfactorily maintained and operated and there were no circumstances upon which formal action or report has been necessary.

(f) Food Manufacturing Premises

The majority of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 were used for the sale of ice-cream in which no particular difficulties were experienced. Of the others in regular use one is used for the manufacture of pickles, one for the manufacture of ice-cream and five for the manufacture of sausages. These premises have been well maintained and no formal action has been necessary.

(g) Ice-cream

As indicated above the majority of the premises in this trade are equipped solely for the storage and sale of prepacked ice-cream as produced by the large wholesale manufacturers with whose products fault is rarely found.

Some trouble was, however, experienced with the products of one of these firms, samples of which frequently fell into Provisional Grades 3 or 4. The cause of these failures was eventually traced, and, as a result of representations by a number of authorities, the firm introduced measures to ensure that further unsatisfactory ice-cream did not reach the consumer.

While it is, of course, certain that if the Ice-Cream (Heat

Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947-52 were strictly observed by manufacturers a safe ice-cream should result, failures, however, do occur, and with the complexities of manufacturing and distributing ice-cream in large quantities it is very difficult sometimes to trace a failure to its source, or to take immediate and effective action on the evidence of the Provisional Grading alone.

Forty-two samples of ice-cream were taken during the year with the following results :—

Grade I—29 ; Grade II—9 ; Grade III—2 ; Grade IV—2.

(h) Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56

In the course of inspections at food premises since the introduction of the Food Hygiene Regulations occupiers have been found very co-operative and willing to do such work as was necessary to comply with the regulations. Structural peculiarities and availability of services were a source of difficulty in one or two instances, but in no case has it been necessary to recommend any exemptions from the regulations.

A more serious problem has arisen due to the increase in the trading in all kinds of food from vans or mobile shops. This form of trade is particularly prevalent in the newly developed areas of the district where it has no doubt been encouraged by the lack of permanent shops. Several of these vans operate from premises in neighbouring districts, and it is difficult to ensure that the Regulations are observed.

WATER SUPPLY

Rainfall

Month	Somerdale Station (Total depth in inches)	Greatest Fall in 24 hours	Date
January	3.85	0.71	22nd
February	0.26	0.14	13th
March	0.57	0.21	22nd
April	1.46	0.40	25th
May	0.42	0.16	9th
June	1.79	0.42	3rd
July	2.72	1.47	18th
August	4.58	1.64	25th
September	3.12	0.74	27th
October	1.28	0.70	1st
November	0.64	0.21	27th
December	3.83	0.96	15th
TOTAL	24.52	—	—

The whole of the district is within the area of supply of the West Gloucestershire Water Co. and practically all domestic supplies are obtained from this source. The quality and quantity of this supply have been satisfactory.

As the source of the public water supply is not within your district no samples of raw water have been collected by your officers. Samples of treated water have been taken quarterly for bacteriological examination and all have been found satisfactory.

Chemical analyses of the water have also been made periodically. The results indicate that the water is moderately soft (70 parts per million), and slightly alkaline.

The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

Practically all houses in the district have a piped supply direct from the main, but a few houses on the outskirts rely on wells which have maintained satisfactory supplies.

RODENT CONTROL

Total number of visits of inspection	...	...	1,746
Number of properties found infested	...	...	43
Number of properties treated by operator	...	...	27
No major infestation of rodents has been noted or reported.			

Council properties, including refuse tip and sewers, have been test baited from time to time and treated immediately any infestation was revealed.

CARAVAN SITES

Six sites have been licensed under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 for the whole year. Two further sites were licensed for shorter periods for special purposes. All have been satisfactorily maintained.

FACTORIES AND INDUSTRY

There were 58 premises on the Register of Factories on 31st December, 1956. Forty-nine visits were made to premises coming within the scope of the Factories Acts, and three informal and one formal notice were issued and complied with.

The principal industries are the manufacture of chocolate and cocoa, paper and envelopes, soap and soap powder, chemicals, paint and agricultural foods. Agriculture, light engineering and sugar packing also employ a fair proportion of the population.

FROME URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

POPULATION ESTIMATED MID-YEAR, 1956	....	....	11,350
AREA OF THE DISTRICT	....	....	1,194 acres
NUMBER OF HOUSES INHABITED ACCORDING TO RATE BOOKS	....	....	3,626
AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSE	....		3.13
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	....	....	£520
RATEABLE VALUE as at MARCH, 1956	....	....	£131,393

Chairman of the Council H. M. SCOTT, ESQ., J.P., C.C.

*Chairman of the Public Health
Committee* A. D. FRAMPTON, ESQ., J.P.

Senior Public Health Inspector E. HOSKEN, Cert. S.I.B.,
Meat and Food Inspector,
M.R.I.P.H.H., M.A.P.H.I., Hon.
Dip. in Advanced Hygiene

Additional Public Health Inspector C. M. HOLSGROVE, M.A.P.H.I.,
Cert. S.I.B., Meat and Food
Inspector.

**Municipal Offices,
North Hill House,
Frome.**

Telephone : FROME 3231

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The number of live births registered, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 160.

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	82	72	154
Illegitimate	....	....	....	6	—	6
				<hr/> 88	<hr/> 72	<hr/> 160

STILL BIRTHS

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	5	1	6
Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	—	—
				<hr/> 5	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 6

Birth Rate, per 1000 estimated resident population, mid 1956	....	....	....	....	....	15·22
Still births, rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	....					39·10
Death Rate, per 1000 estimated average population	....					9·65

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1000 live births	....	....	....	23·44
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	....			24·35
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births				Nil

DEATHS

The number of deaths, adjusted for inward and outward transfers total 146. Seventy-eight male and 68 female. The following Table indicates the cause of death :—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	1
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach....	1	—	1
" " lung, bronchus	5	—	5
" " breast	—	3	3
" " uterus	—	4	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neo- plasms	5	4	9
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1
Diabetes	2	—	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	7	14
Coronary disease, angina	16	5	21
Hypertension with heart disease	2	7	9
Other heart disease	13	25	38
Other circulatory disease	2	2	4
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	6	2	8
Bronchitis	4	1	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	2	—	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	5	9
Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1
All other accidents	—	—	—
Suicide	3	—	3
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
	78	68	146

Deaths under One year of age

There were 5 deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, 3 male and 2 female, divided as follows:—

Under 1 week	....	3	1—4 weeks	....	—
1—6 months	....	2	6—12 months	....	—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Measles	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	14	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Membranous croup	—	—	—
Enteric or paratyphoid fever	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Acute primary pneumonia	1	—	—
Acute influenzal pneumonia	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—
Typhus	—	—	—
Typhoid fever	—	—	—
Small Pox	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—
Food poisoning	—	—	—
	16	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

Four cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. There was one death from pulmonary tuberculosis.

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-pulmonary</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Cases on register, 1.1.56	31	13	3	2	34	15
New cases, 1956	3	1	—	—	3	1
Cases removed from register, 1956	34	14	3	2	37	16
	3	1	—	—	3	1
On register, 31.12.56	31	13	3	2	34	15

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

FROME WELFARE CENTRE

One ante-natal clinic and two infant welfare clinics were held at the Frome Welfare Centre each week at which an average of 80 mothers and babies were seen. Talks to the mothers, illustrated by film strips, were given periodically by members of the nursing staff. A useful addition to the educational side of the work is a birth atlas which was kindly provided by the Welfare Committee. The attendance figures again showed a decrease on last year's figures but this was not due in any way to lack of zeal on the part of the excellent working committee. The attendance figures for the year were as follows :—

Total on the register at the beginning of the year ... 409
 Total on the register at the end of the year ... 420

Attendances :—

January	...	...	...	...	...	204
February	...	...	...	...	...	132
March	...	...	...	...	...	212
April	...	...	...	...	...	214
May	...	...	...	...	...	253
June	...	...	...	...	...	267
July	...	...	...	...	...	254
August	...	...	...	...	...	232
September	...	...	...	...	...	228
October	...	...	...	...	...	248
November	...	...	...	...	...	260
December	...	...	...	...	...	136
						<u>2,640</u>
Attendances for 1955	...	...	...			2,918

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR 1956

Housing

The number of applicants on the Council's List is now one hundred and fifty three. During the year seventy-four Council houses were completed and occupied. In addition twenty-two houses were completed by private enterprise. In the course of erection at the end of 1956 were twenty-two Local Authority houses for Slum Clearance and four for other purposes. There were ten being constructed by private builders. During the year there were also three flats formed by the conversion of a large house by a Local Industrial concern.

Slum Clearance

As a result of the survey carried out under the provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, an area has been inspected and represented to the Council. The Council has considered this representation and has decided to include this area in a much larger Compulsory Purchase and Clearance Area. The detailed inspections required for the Clearance Area work have been completed.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

During the year the following number of visits were made :—
Number of visits :—

Public Health Inspections including Meat and Food						
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	2,105
Housing	...	...	...	...	...	775
Total number of visits of all kinds	...	...	...	...	...	3,791

Common Lodging Houses

Two Common Lodging Houses were visited on five occasions. They are both kept in a satisfactory and clean condition.

Rodent Control

Number of premises treated for rats	...	...	...	47
" " " " mice	...	...	...	125
Total number of visits	...	...	...	1,620

During 1956 the full time Operator left and it was not possible to obtain another one until December. Part-time work of this kind was found to be most unsatisfactory.

MILK SUPPLY INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Number of registered distributors of milk	...	...	...	4
Number of registered dairy premises other than farms	...	...	...	2
Number of licensed dealers' of Designated milk	...	...	...	5
Number of supplementary licences issued to distributors with dairies outside the Urban District	...	...	...	2

During the year 27 samples of Designated Milk were taken for bacteriological examination and all were satisfactory.

Ice-cream

There are 44 registered premises in the district. During the year 45 samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Bath and the results of tests were as follows :—

Grade I	...	...	...	...	...	...	33 samples
Grade II	...	...	...	...	...	...	8 „
Grade III	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 „
Grade IV	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 „

The Grade III and Grade IV results were from one factory where faulty cleansing methods were found and subsequent samples have been satisfactory.

MEAT INSPECTION

Inspection of meat killed in the Urban District continues on a 100 per cent. basis including bacon factory.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during the year :—

	<i>Cattle excluding cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed	212	622	290	744	8,835
Number inspected	Same as number killed				
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI :					
Whole carcasses con- demned	5	1	1	1	14
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	59	212	0	6	713
Percentage of number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	30%	34%	0.34%	0.94%	8.2%

	<i>Cattle excluding cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	0	0	0	13
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	14	24	12	0	240
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	7.5%	3.8%	4%	0%	2.7%
CYSTICERCOSIS :					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	Nil	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	4	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ...	Nil	—	—	—	—
WEIGHT OF MEAT CONDEMNED (in lb.) for :—					
(a) Tuberculosis ...	1,247	678	60	0	5,168
(b) Cysticercosis ...	Nil	—	—	—	—
(c) Other	3,208	1,796	53	100	3,639
Total (in lb.) condemned	4,455	2,474	113	100	8,807

OTHER FOOD INSPECTIONS

	<i>lbs.</i>
Canned Meat	338
„ Fruit	55
„ Vegetables	29½
„ Ham	13½
„ Fish	7½
Jam, Marmalade	7
Preserves	3
Cheese	13½
Currants	100
Home Cooked Ham	6
Sausages	10
Carcase Meat	528
Fresh Fruit	12
Miscellaneous	32½

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

There are 180 food premises in the district excluding 42 licensed premises and the inspections of all these food premises in connection with the above regulations will take a considerable time. Eighty have been inspected during the year. Where necessary notices to comply with the regulations have been served and it has been found that the work required has been put in hand by the traders in a very co-operative manner.

Swimming Baths

These have been very much used during the year. The number of bathers has averaged 200 daily. Three samples of the bath water have been taken for bacteriological examination and found to be satisfactory. In addition daily readings for residual chlorine have been taken during the whole year and in each case have been satisfactory.

Factories and Workplaces

There were 94 factories on the Council's Register as at 31st December, 1956. Visits were made to 44 factories and 10 informal notices were served and complied with.

The number of outworkers contained in the August List was 16, all of whom were engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

Water Supply

The water supply to the Urban District continues to be entirely satisfactory. This service is under the control of the Council's Surveyor and routine samples were taken by the Public Health Inspectors with the following results :—

Number of samples taken	...	...	...	18
Number of satisfactory samples	...	...	...	18
One routine chemical sample was satisfactory.				

Disinfection and Disinfestation

Fourteen batches of bedding were disinfected and four batches destroyed at the request of the owners.

Two rooms were disinfected after cases of infectious diseases.

FROME RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

POPULATION ESTIMATED MID-YEAR, 1956	....	....	10,390
AREA OF THE DISTRICT	....	....	51,933 acres
NUMBER OF HOUSES INHABITED ACCORDING TO RATE BOOKS	....	....	3,602
AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSE	....		2.88
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	....	....	£250
RATEABLE VALUE AT 1ST APRIL, 1956	....	....	£67,248

<i>Chairman of the Council</i>	....	C. CULLEN, Esq. J.P.
<i>Chairman of the General Pur- poses Committee</i>	....	Captain N. H. CREES
<i>Public Health Inspector</i>	....	C. H. PROSSER

Public Offices, Frome.

Telephone : FROME 2625 and 2184.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The number of live births registered, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 163.

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	70	89	159
Illegitimate	....	....	....	2	2	4
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				72	91	163
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

STILL BIRTHS

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	2	—	2
Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	—	—
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				2	—	2
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth Rate, per 1000 estimated resident population, mid 1956	....	....	....	....	....	17·04
Still births, rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	....					13·09
Death Rate, per 1000 estimated average population	....					8·68

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1000 live births	....	....	....	23·07
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	....			23·64
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births				Nil

DEATHS

The number of deaths registered, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 96, 56 male and 40 female. The following Table indicates the cause of death :—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach....	4	—	4
" " lung, bronchus	2	—	2
" " breast	—	4	4
" " uterus	—	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neo- plasms	7	4	11
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
Diabetes	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	8	12
Coronary disease, angina	6	3	9
Hypertension with heart disease	1	2	3
Other heart disease	12	12	24
Other circulatory disease	5	2	7
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	2	2
Bronchitis	—	—	—
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—	3
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformation	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	1	8
Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1
All other accidents	1	—	1
Suicide	1	—	1
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
	56	40	96

Deaths under One year of age

There were 4 deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, 2 male and 2 female, divided as follows :—

Under 1 week	....	2	1—4 weeks	....	—
1—6 months	....	2	6—12 months	....	—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Measles	4	—	—
Scarlet fever	5	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Membranous croup	—	—	—
Enteric or paratyphoid fever	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—
Whooping cough	12	—	—
Acute primary pneumonia	9	—	—
Acute influenzal pneumonia	4	1	—
Acute poliomyelitis	1	1	—
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—
Typhus	—	—	—
Typhoid fever	—	—	—
Small Pox	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—
Food poisoning	—	—	—
	36	2	—

TUBERCULOSIS

Two cases of respiratory and one case of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year. There were no deaths.

		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-pulmonary</i>		<i>Total</i>	
		<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Cases on register, 1.1.56	....	9	12	2	4	11	16
New cases, 1956	....	1	1	1	—	2	1
		10	13	3	4	13	17
Removed from register, 1956	....	1	2	—	—	1	2
On register 31.12.56	....	9	11	3	4	12	15

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

FROME RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

WATER SUPPLIES

Samples of water have been taken from all supplies in the area during the past year, and the Analyst's reports were as follows :—

<i>Raw Water</i>				<i>Treated after going into supply</i>			
<i>Bacteriological</i>		<i>Chemical</i>		<i>Bacteriological</i>		<i>Chemical</i>	
<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>	<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>	<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>	<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>
38	8	15	—	3	—	4	—

PUBLIC SUPPLIES

Norton St. Philip Regional Supply

There was a very considerable decrease in the yield from the above well during the summer. The actual yield diminished to the very low figure of 57,000 gallons per day, and for a while the properties on the higher regions were short of water for certain parts of the day.

Fortunately, it was possible for the supply to be augmented by pumping water into the Norton mains at Beckington from the Trowbridge, Melksham & District Water Board's main at Rudge by means of a mobile pump. This overcame the shortage.

Coleford

The springs at Whitehole continued throughout the year to yield sufficient water for the area served, but unfortunately there was insufficient water in the mill pond to drive the water wheel at the mill, and a mobile pump had to be used at certain times during the day to pump the water up to the Lipyeate reservoir. Thus a satisfactory supply was maintained to the parish.

Gaer Hill

There was no diminution in the spring yield during the year. Nunney and Trudoxhill received an adequate supply from the Gaer Hill and Holwell springs.

Buckland Dinham

The supply here throughout the year was satisfactory.

Leigh on Mendip

The above village received an adequate supply and, rather surprisingly, the yield of the spring remained constant throughout the year.

Mells

Apart from quality, Mells experienced no shortage in spite of the drought.

Wanstrow and Upton Noble

Stage 1 of the West Regional Scheme was finally completed, and Wanstrow and Upton Noble continued to receive a satisfactory supply of water. The water is purchased in bulk from the Shepton Mallet Rural District Council.

IMPROVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR

North-East Area Scheme

The above scheme, which was commenced during 1955, was completed during the year. It now serves the hamlet of Rudge and the parish of Rode, and is therefore used to augment the Norton St. Philip distribution area.

Blatchbridge and Woodlands Area Scheme

The above scheme was commenced and completed during the year. The water is obtained in bulk from the Frome Urban District Council at Egford Hill, and supplies that area of Selwood which was originally supplied from the Longleat Estate.

West Regional Scheme—Stage 2

The above scheme was started in December, 1956, and when completed will augment the Coleford supply in times of drought, and also provide a piped water supply for Whatley and Chantry which at present rely entirely on individual wells, which have always proved inadequate from a point of view of both quality and quantity.

General

Owing to the need for extreme economy, the Council have deferred for the present the following schemes :—

Extension to Laverton village.

„ „ Foxcote.

„ „ Buckland Down from Terry Hill. .

„ „ Charlton.

„ „ Lipyeate.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Coleford and Rode are the only two villages in the area which have satisfactory sewerage systems.

The two schemes to provide sewerage facilities for Beckington and Kilmersdon were completed last year, but unfortunately in each case only a small part of the village is served by the sewer.

In the case of Beckington, gross pollution of the water courses is still taking place as a result of untreated sewage being discharged directly into the water courses.

At Kilmersdon there are only approximately 23 properties connected to the sewer, and here again there is an urgent need for the whole of the village to be served.

Coleford

A new 6-in. sewer was laid from the Coal Barton housing site to connect up with the existing sewer at The Grove, Coleford, during this year.

Nunney

Owing to the need for economy the proposals for providing a new works for this parish have been deferred.

Rode

The work of excluding surface water from the existing sewers has been satisfactorily completed this year, and a visit to the sewage works during a storm amply proves that the surface water has been excluded from the old sewers.

FUTURE PROPOSALS

Mells and Norton St. Philip

Schemes have been prepared for main drainage and disposal systems in the above parishes. The need for these is urgent and it is hoped that the Ministry's approval will be given and the works commenced during 1957.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Refuse is still collected by contract at fortnightly intervals, except in the parish of Coleford which receives a weekly collection.

The contract finishes in March, 1958, and I hope by this date to have prepared a scheme for refuse collection by direct labour which will be acceptable to the Council.

There are five controlled tips in the area, but three of these are disused quarries and are rapidly being filled up, so that the question of new tips will have to be considered at a very early date.

HOUSING

	Houses erected during year		Houses in course of erection		<i>Gained</i> from conversion of large houses or buildings into flats or dwellings	<i>Lost</i> from conversion of two or more houses to one
	For Slum Clearance	For Other Purposes	For Slum Clearance	For Other Purposes		
Local Authority	4	16	16	12	Nil	Nil
Private Enterprise	Nil	14	Nil	11	Nil	Nil

The Frome U.D.C. have erected, within the Rural Area, 26 flats and 18 houses.

Number of Post-War Houses erected from 1st April, 1945, to 31st December, 1956		Housing Programme for 1957	
By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	For Slum Clearance	For Other Purposes
293	140+ (8 houses) (4 flats) (F.U.D.C.)	20	12

Number of houses made fit during the year—53.

During the year 56 houses in Coleford and one in Leigh on Mendip were officially represented, and four families occupying houses scheduled for demolition were rehoused as part of the Council's first-year programme. The remaining 16 families of the first-year's slum clearance programme are to be rehoused at Coleford on the completion of the houses now being erected.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS, 1949 and 1954

During the year 45 applications were received for grants under the above. Of these 35 were approved and 15 rejected.

	(1) Received		(2) Approved		(3) Rejected	
	Appli- cations	No. of dwellings	Appli- cations	No. of dwellings	Appli- cations	No. of dwellings
31.7.49 to 31.12.55	86	86	50	50	17	17
During year	45	45	35	35	15	15

Withdrawn	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Number of applications approved in respect of owner-occupiers	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Average cost per dwelling approved	...	...	...	...	...	...	£684
Average rent fixed	...	...	...	£40 to	£200 per annum	...	
Amount of grant payable by Local Authority	...	...	...	...	25%—30%	...	

MILK

Number of registered distributors	...	...	...	...	22
„ „ registered dairy premises (other than dairy farms)					7
„ „ licensed dealers of designated milk	...	...			2
„ „ supplementary licences issued to distributors					
whose dairy is outside the area	...	...	...		4

ICE-CREAM

There are 25 registered retailers of ice-cream. All of this is pre-packed. Periodic inspections have been carried out, and the premises are generally satisfactory.

PREMISES WHERE FOOD IS PREPARED

Number registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955	18
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BYELAWS MADE UNDER SECTION 15 OF THE FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955

Action taken respecting enforcement and result: informal action only

It is obvious that there are many such premises not registered and inspections are now being carried out in the whole of the district, with a view to their registration.

KNACKERS' YARDS

Number registered : 1. The Mount, Blatchbridge, Frome.

The owners have now submitted detailed proposals for an improved drainage disposal system.

FACTORIES

There were 26 factories on the Council's register as at 31st December, 1955. Periodic inspections were made, and where necessary informal notices were served and complied with.

INDUSTRIES

The commercial life of the district is principally centred around the following industries :—

Agriculture.	Quarrying.
Engineering.	Milk Products (Messrs. Aplin & Barrett).

PEST DESTRUCTION

A constant watch has been kept on infestation by way of surveys and treatments. Sewers and refuse tips within the district have been treated regularly : and domestic premises dealt with in response to complaints.

